DEC 1 1 2003 . No. 09/521,367 ndment dated December 11, 2003 Amendment dated December 11, 2003
RAD Tolkeply to Office Action of June 13, 2003

## Corres. and Mail

MAIL STOP "AF" EXPEDITED PROCEDURE USSN 09/521,367

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Marilyn Stults

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

GAU 3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 00146/LH

Applicant

: Hitoshi KARASAWA

Serial No.

: 09/521,367

Filed

: March 8, 2000

For

: TROCAR SHEATH TUBE

Art Unit

: 3731

Examiner

: Paul A. Roberts

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## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 1700

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 13, 2003, the term for response to which is extended by three months by Petition filed concurrently herewith to December 13, 2003.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 7 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.